

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 8:30AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Planning Director Rod Francis, Public works Director Steve Barrett, Citizen Representative Robert Immler, and School Representative Betsy Gentile.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell and Police Captain Mark Carignan.

Others present: Dale Joy, Terry Carter, Michael Bosworth, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Approve Minutes – September 23, 2014.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – Terry Carter inquired whether a new speedometer that had recently been purchased would be installed on Putney Road near Vermont Avenue and Harris Avenue. Steve Barrett spoke to the mobility of the device and the intended uses in various locations.

Dale Jody reiterated her concerns about the speed of traffic on Western Avenue and stated that she wanted to see the speed limit lowered.

Safe Streets Project – Update. Moreland said that Safe Streets was a group of local, concerned citizens that had organized to promote safe streets for pedestrians and bicyclists. He said that the group had conducted a series of public education campaigns, including chalking sidewalks around crosswalks, promoting wearing bright colors at night, and distributing reflective leg bands. He reviewed information that Kathleen White, from the Vermont Department of Health, presented at the previous meeting regarding a Combined Community Prevention Grant that was awarded in partnership to Local Motion and Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition to perform work in promoting physical activity and nutrition, which also included an element to improve road design for pedestrians and bicycles. He suggested that representatives from Local Motion be invited to attend the next Traffic Safety Committee meeting and provide a presentation. Terry Carter noted that the next Safe Streets meeting was scheduled on December 3, at 3:00pm in the Hanna Cosman meeting room. The Committee was in general agreement to hearing the presentation from Local Motion.

Safe Routes to Schools – Update. Barrett discussed the history of the Safe Routes to Schools Program and cited many improvements that had been made to promote safe walking and bicycling to the schools. He said that many areas of safety concerns had been identified over the years around the area of Green Street School, and members of Safe Routes to Schools were discussing another phase of improvements to the Green Street School area, including improving the Green Street/High Street intersection and narrowing the travel portion of Green Street with improved sidewalk work. He asked for support from the Committee to continue to seek funding from different sources such as grants and private funding. There was discussion about various intersections in the Green Street School area, areas of concerns around other schools, funding options, and prioritizing projects around Town. It was generally agreed to continue discussion on this matter after the presentation that will be made to the Committee next month by Local Motion in connection with the Safe Streets Project.

Academy School Scoping Study – Review and Comment. O'Connell presented the draft "West Brattleboro Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Study" for comment by the Committee. She and Barrett spoke in detail about the plan and concepts that had been suggested for improvement to the area on

Western Avenue, particularly the area between Academy School and Greenleaf Street. They said that the project was still in the public review/comment phase and that the Committee was not being asked to approve the plan. Michael Bosworth commented on various aspects of the Study. There was much discussion by the Committee about the considerable safety concerns in the area and beyond, validity of concepts presented in the Scoping Study, and the general project.

Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Request Forms

(a) *Crosswalks at Canal Street @ Belmont, Canal Street @ Oak Grove.* O'Connell discussed a complaint filed by a citizen about the dangerous crosswalks across Canal Street at Belmont Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue. She reviewed traffic data in the area. Barrett discussed a traffic study that was performed in 2011 and funded by AARP. He said that Planning Department had \$3,000 that was available to make improvements to that area, and he was searching for supplemental funding to provide enough funds to install a signalized crosswalk unit. He said that the cost of each unit was \$7,000, plus installation costs. Rod Francis discussed the AARP study in more detail and indicated that some of the recommendations in the AARP study would not be effective but the signalized unit was reasonable. He said that more changes could be made over time in an effort to encourage safe pedestrian activity in the area. There was discussion by the Committee about the traffic data, AARP traffic study, proposed improvements, and internal departmental discussions around installation of a signalized crosswalk unit. Gartenstein suggested that a plan and budget be presented to the Selectboard for approval.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY ROD FRANCIS, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ENDORSE INSTALLATION OF A SIGNALIZED CROSSWALK MECHANISM AT THE CANAL STREET / OAK GROVE AVENUE / BELMONT AVENUE INTERSECTION AND CONTINUE RESEARCHING FUNDING SOURCES FOR THAT WORK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(b) *Western Ave @ Greenleaf.* O'Connell reported that Dale Joy filed a safety action request form inquiring about traffic crash data at the intersection of Greenleaf Street, and she requested that a radar/speed sign be installed at that intersection as a traffic calming measure. Dale Joy was present and spoke of her concerns about the dangerous intersection at Greenleaf Street with Western Avenue. She suggested slowing traffic coming from the west on Western Avenue. There was discussion about the crash data at that intersection, whether those crashes were due to road conditions, and the general use of traffic data. Barrett said that the location would be added to the list of locations to install the portable radar device.

MOTION BY PATRICK MORELAND, AND SECONDED BY MIKE BUCOSSO, TO ASK TO SITUATE THE PORTABLE RADAR SIGN ON WESTERN AVENUE FOR TRAFFIC HEADING EASTBOUND AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND TO REPORT INFORMATION BACK TO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Fitzgerald reported there was a total of 77 accidents in the last month and a half - 0 with pedestrians, and 1 with a bicycle. He said that in the bike incident, the rider was coming down the Canal Street Hill on the sidewalk on the wrong side of the street and collided with the side of a vehicle. He reported there were only minor injuries.

Other Business – None.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY ROD FRANCIS TO ADJOURN AT 10:00AM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.